NEW YORK STATE MECHANIC.

Under the Direction of the New York State Mechanic Association.

VOL. I.—No. 42. ALBANY, SEPT. 10, 1842. PART II.—No. 16.

MECHANICS' STATE CONVENTION.

(Concluded.)

Mr. Grout pointed out some of the good effects of the law of last winter, and though he admitted that they were *few*, yet it was better than nothing, much more than had been accomplished.

The mechanics, by concert and associate action, might send such men to the legislature as would do their duty, were they so disposed. They must and should exercise their power, or seek for redress in vain. It is only by adopting the same weapons used by our antagonists that we shall effect our object. We must meet them on their own grounds and turn their own missiles against them. Let the mechanics, previous to the coming fall election, fix upon honest and capable men, before the regular candidates are nominated, and prepare to support them. The parties must then come to the candidates of the mechanics, or lose their own. This is the only way. The laborer must now step out boldly, and select his own men, nor rely upon the heartless promises of politicians. They must come from the body of the mechanics; if they do not, reject them. The mechanics must boldly lead the way, and let the politicians bring up the rear.

Mr. Whitney said that the wedge had been entered, and we must back it up by strong and powerful blows. We had got an inch and now let us take an ell, for it is our right.

Mr. Crandall said he did not know how the laws were executed, but there must be some fraud at the prisons. He hoped this matter might be inquired into. That the mechanics were one third of the population, and should at least have one third of the consideration of our lawgivers.

The resolution was then laid on the table for further consideration.

Mr. Whitney then offered the following resolution:

Whereas, The legislature of this state, at its regular session of the current year, passed a law for the further exemption of household furniture and working tools from distress and sale on execution; and whereas, the legislature at its present extra session have manifested a disposition to reconsider or entirely repeal the above mentioned law, therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to draft a remonstrance against the repeal of said law, to be presented to the legislature at its present session, and report the same to this association.

Mr. W. said that the law of last winter was passed by no particular party, and he was sorry to see the movement of the legislature at this extra session. He hoped the association would act upon this subject.

Some objection having been made to the reception of this resolution, on the ground that it did not come within the action of the convention, Mr. True rose and said that it *did* come within the action of the association. They had met here to consider measures relating to the benefit of the mechanics, and in his opinion this measure involved their dearest interests. It was not a party question, neither had it ever been; and he could not discover how it should be considered as such. He believed it was a proper subject for the consideration of the convention.

Mr. Greig maintained the same ground. The state had degraded itself into a ruinous competition with the mechanics, and after driving them into poverty, they were now attempting to ruin him entirely, by taking away his only hope. The law of last winter afforded a partial relief, for it left him some small means for the support of himself and family, and now the rum seller and monopolist would strike away the last prop, and resign him to irretrievable ruin. He hoped this resolution would be adopted.

After some conversation the resolution was laid on the table for further consideration.

The meeting then adjourned till the next day, (1st Sept.,) at 10 o'clock A. M.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The association met according to adjournment.

After the proceedings of the previous day had been read and approved, the committee of five, to which was referred the report of the publishing committee, presented the following report and resolutions, which were adopted:

The special committee to whom was referred the report of the committee on the establishment of a paper to sustain the interest of mechanics, and to whom was referred the resolutions relative thereto, beg leave respectfully to report:

That they have taken the whole subject into deliberate consideration. They hesitate not to say that few papers have been established in this state with such small means, under such embarrassing circumstances, which have in so short a time done themselves and conductors so much honor and credit, both with respect to its topographical, instructive and high moral character. The committee have no hesitation to say that should the mechanics and workingmen suffer this paper to fail for want of their support they will deserve to experience all the evils they have so long endured as a class. In this movement to sustain a paper that will advance our particular interests, we are countenanced by the example of other classes of the community. The merchant has his Journal of Commerce, the physician his Journal of Medicine, his Censor and Lancet, the lawyer his Law Reporter and Law Journal, the farmer his Agriculturist and Cultivator, with many others that might be named. These are all more or less aided by mechanics also, but the several interests they separately advocate stick to them as to their right arm; and shall mechanics be less tenacious of their distinct interests than other portions of our fellow citizens, (whom we applaud for their vigilance in taking care of their own affairs, in their own way,) nor would we wish it otherwise, but rather urge their example as an incentive for our actions with respect to our own affairs. The committee are satisfied that should all those who are able among the 170,000 mechanics of our state, come out decidedly to the support of the New York State Mechanic; a very few years will elapse before this paper will attain a character for usefulness equal to any in the state or country, and will be a medium of communication from one portion of the mechanic community to the other, as well as a family reading paper of instruction, to the young mechanic and other youth that will be sought for in vain from any other quarter; should such support be given it is believed the price of the paper may be fixed at one dollar; at the present price, $1,50, it is this year a losing concern to the publisher. Will the mechanics let this state of things continue? the committee trust they will not.

They beg leave to offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the New York State Mechanic is a paper eminently deserving the countenance and support of every mechanic, manufacturer and workingman of the state, and if permitted to cease, for the want of such support, it will be a reflection on their good sense, and will lower the mechanic reputation for discernment below that of any other portion of the community.

Resolved, That it be urged upon the mechanics in the country towns and villages of this state to take immediate measures to form themselves into associations, as provided for by the constitution of this state association, and that they also obtain subscribers to this paper, and transmit their names to the corresponding secretary, at Albany, as soon as possible thereafter.

The resolutions referred to them they beg to return to the association for its action thereon.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH SIMPSON,
HENRY CRANDALL,
BENJ. GREIG,
B. H. BOYNTON,
AMAZIAH WHITNEY.

Mr. Simpson said, with regard to the latter resolution, it was of much importance. He stated the necessity of supporting a paper for the benefit of mechanics. He detailed the good results that would flow from an extensive circulation among the younger classes; the young mechanic and the mechanic's family. He urged that the talents of the mechanics should be called forth through this paper. He therefore approved of the resolution.

Mr. Hanna urged the plan of association among mechanics. Let the class be elevated and they would not be compelled to come as petitioners to the halls of legislation. To effect perfect independence the young among us, must be made acquainted with their own strength. He stated that among the mechanics of the state there was as much talent as in any other class; it required only the fostering hand of the democracy of numbers to bring this talent into action. Since the spirit of liberty first shed its influence upon our soil, the laborers had been rising by slow but certain degrees. This advancement should not now be retarded. Associate action would further the glorious rise among this long degraded and down trodden class. Knowledge is power, and to gain and disseminate knowledge should be our first object. He approved of the resolution.

Mr. Whitney said it had been hinted that the mechanics were degraded. He felt that it was too true, but it was satisfactory to mark the advancement of the class. Much had been achieved. In our city and state associations of young men, mechanics occupied the presidential chairs. He was glad that it was so: it was the day star that heralded a bright and glorious day. He coincided in the sentiments conveyed in the resolution, and maintained that associate action was the first and in fact the only means whereby to effect this end.

Mr. True said that it was a lamentable fact that associations were so few. It was this that retarded the advancement of mechanics. He hoped that by means of the paper spoken of in the resolution we should accomplish these effects, as well as those affecting their mental and moral improvement. Mechanics would do well to furnish articles for the paper, facts, statistics, &c. &c., and make it, as it ought to be, emphatically a *mechanics' paper*. But the great difficulty with our organization was, that it was not complete; they did not act together, and their individual efforts were of no avail.

Mr. T. adverted to the melancholy condition of the mechanics of England, and he took it upon himself to assert boldly that it was because they were not united in opposing the grinding exactions of the *soi disant* higher classes. Suffering and degraded as they were still they had no press to assert and maintain their rights, and what was the consequence? He would answer the question—it was too well known to be, the want of organization among themselves, to have their interests properly represented, and a want of proper information upon subjects of such vital interests to them. Among the mass of operatives, that could allow such a crisis to arrive, or such a condition to remain for a single day, without shaking their proud government to its base, and the intimate connections of the two countries brought much of the prejudices and character of their operatives among us, which it was due the free mechanics of this country to correct.

He urged that the association of mechanics throughout the state and country, with proper organs of communication, like our paper, and men of such practical experience, research and ability as its editor, to conduct them, was the surest, quickest and thoroughest mode of doing it.

Mr. T. showed that the paper was now so far established that a proper exertion upon the part of the association would ensure its permanence. He again urged that mechanics should contribute to its columns.

Mr. Simpson said that the mechanics were first to establish the present popular lecture system, and in fact have always been the first to take the lead in originating these useful institutions, and he hoped some means would be adopted to follow them up, actively and energetically.

A motion was then made to appoint a committee of five to prepare an address and resolutions expressive of the sense of this association. Messrs. Swackhammer, Hanna, Huntington, Greig and Boynton, were appointed this committee.

Mr. Greig then presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to report upon the best plan for organizing the entire body of the mechanics of the state, if not into a *political* body, in name, at least into a "*body politic*" *or social*, so as hereafter to ensure their united action upon all questions touching their interest, *individually* and *collectively*

Mr. G. continued, being myself a plain mechanic, and representing a class of plain men in the western part of the state, I feel a diffidence in attempting to address this enlightened body. Should my opinions appear to this honorable convention as crude and disordered in their arrangement, or heterodox in principle, then let abler heads correct, or "*repudiate*" *them altogether*. Nevertheless, I desire a candid consideration of my views.

From considerable observation and experience, and a study of some twenty years on the subject, I have arrived to the following conclusions in regard to the mechanics of America. First, that not being *hereditary* in their several trades like those of the old world, they are not a fixed and permanent class, and consequently do not feel *interested* in the welfare in *particular* of their order. I would not recommend the *hereditary* principle, because genius and skill are not *always hereditary* qualities; yet as there are evils in our system, some plan must be devised to eradicate them. The peculiar institutions of our country, foster to an inordinate degree, *ambition*, *enterprise*, and a continual desire to rise above the conditions in which we were born; these, carried to their utmost *extension*, and *overaction* for the last few years, have brought us as a people to the bankrupt condition that the *nation* is now in. *Our institutions are better* than most of those beyond the Atlantic. They are not faultless however; there are evils here too, and something must be done to remedy them. Every in-

dividual *almost*, in this country, seems to be seeking out some other plan for a livelihood and for advancement in life than the honorable one of labor—the learned professions are *over stocked*, and *lazily* riding on the backs of the producers—the *farmers* are living by their "hired man"—the capitalists have taken to "bossing" all mechanical trades, while the practical mechanic has become a journeyman, subject to be discharged at every pretended "miff" of his purse proud employer, to make room for a graduate of Sing-Sing or Auburn, or for an emigrant from oppressed Europe, who, poor fellow, often engages to labor for wages that would *destroy* the *hopes* of an *American* mechanic. These are "sore evils under the sun." Something *must* be done to check them, or we as a body must take to Oregon and the plough.

From these and similar causes has been brought into existence that insulting, and to us, *degrading* system of elevating to the honest and honorable ranks of American mechanics the *felons* of our penitentiaries. This last and most insufferable grievance we have made a matter of appeal to our legislature *more than once*, and some partial action has been had on the subject, and I believe that one of the principal objects of this convention is to ask our public servants *these questions:* "Gentlemen, *do you mean to mock us?*" Have you heard our appeals and do not understand them? Are we *so* low a class as to be beneath your consideration? Is THERE JUSTICE IN OUR CAUSE? Shall this our *particular* and *reasonable* demand be granted at the next session? or shall we "socialize" our entire body, and organize our whole strength, and send those to Albany, a majority at least, who for once in the period of our national history, will legislate for the *whole people?*

Mr. President, other and vital interests for the mechanics of the empire state have been and will be discussed in this house by those far more capable of assisting our cause than myself.

Now sir, I offer in addition to this resolution, my humble opinion, that if *thorough* and spirited action is had, and the proper means put in requisition in this matter, that our cause will *advance!* That the stupid and indifferent day laborer, who has been brought *down* to that stolid indifference by *care* and *toil*, will *arouse* from his slumber and come to our aid. Striking hands with *us* at the "polls" if necessary. Every *honorable man*, of whatever condition of life, will strike for our cause when their *attention* is once called to the subject of our *wrongs*—aye, and of our *rights* also. *That portion of our craft and calling* who are under the baneful influence of a petty speculation in *Auburn* and *Sing-Sing* manufactories—who to my knowledge (as far as it extends) are the deadly foes to this convention and our cause, will *ere long* look down with the *shame* of the *grog-seller*, being equally, *meanly guilty*—aye, and *convicted* of the guilt *too* of trafficing in *that* which *robs* their *brother* of his *rights*—his *earnings*—and his life!

Mr. Greig then offered the following resolution, which was referred to the committee on organization: (This committee is given above.)

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of every officer of this association to use his utmost influence to extend the circulation of the New York State Mechanic, and that every such officer shall be considered as an *agent* to collect and transmit monies and procure subscriptions for said paper. Further, that it shall be *his duty* to extend its circulation in every possible manner, in order to secure the publisher from losses by dishonest agents, and that the mechanics of this state be requested to pay over to such officers, to be forwarded to the publisher of said paper.

Mr. Whitney then offered the following resolution, which was referred to the committee on address and resolutions:

Resolved, That there be a committee of four appointed by this association, whose duty it shall be to interrogate the candidates who may be nominated for state officers to be elected at the fall election, as to what their opinions are in relation to, and what course they intend to pursue, if elected, in relation to the reformation of the penitentiary system of this state, and that it is recommended to the mechanics of each county in the state to interrogate their nominees for the legislature in like manner.

Mr. Grout then offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That in order to maintain the integrity of our republican institutions we will never cease to advocate the improvement of our public schools, until their very excellence shall make them the voluntary receptacle of the children of the rich as well as the poor, of the high as well as the low, that they may form one common level, from which the rising generation may, with equal chances of success, start in the pursuit of virtue and happiness, of usefulness and fame.

Mr. Grout followed with an able and elegant address on this subject, which we regret we are not able to present.

A letter was then received and read from one of the vice presidents, Mr. O. G. Steele, of Buffalo.

The convention then adjourned to meet at 4 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention met, pursuant to adjournment, at 4 o'clock P. M.

The committee on nominations presented a report, which was accepted and laid on the table for further action.

The committee on organization presented a report proposing several amendments to the constitution:

The select committee appointed in pursuance of the following resolution, to wit:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to report upon the best plan for organizing the entire body of the mechanics of the state, *if not* into a *political* body, at least into a *body politic* or social, so as hereafter to ensure their united action upon all questions touching their interest *individually* and *collectively*, beg leave respectfully to report:

That they have given the subject the most careful consideration that their limited time would permit, and that in performance of this duty they have taken up the constitution of this association, made several amendments thereto, and, as amended, present it to the association as constituting the best plan of organization which they have been able to adopt.

The following are the amendments proposed:

Amend ART. 2 of constitution by adding thereto the words *city, town* or *village*, after the word "county," in the first line of second part (as printed in paper). Also, strike out the word "fifty," in third line of second part of said 2d Art., and insert *twenty*.

Amend ART. 3 by striking out the two last lines, and adding, in place thereof, *to consist of such persons as may be designated by any association of mechanics, as mentioned in Art. 2, not to exceed three persons, or if none such shall be so appointed, then the president of the state association may appoint such general committee, (with the consent of the executive committee,) not to exceed the number of representives to the house of assembly from such county.*

Add ART. 7, This association may admit, by vote, any distinguished persons, as *honorary members*, such persons to have no vote in the transaction of business.

BENJAMIN GREIG, Ch'n.
PAUL GROUT,
BENJAMIN H. BOYNTON,
BENJ. C. TRUE,
ISRAEL HUNTINGTON.

The amendments were unanimously agreed to.

Mr. True presented the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That the secretary of this association be directed to subscribe for, and draw upon the treasurer for the payment of such subscription, at one dollar per copy, of the *New York State Mechanic*, for any member of this association who shall have paid the constitutional dues of two dollars, to the treasury thereof, if living without the city of Albany, so as to receive the paper by mail, and if living in this city and receiving the paper by carrier, that the secretary draw upon the treasurer for the payment of one dollar upon his subscription to the paper, to be paid to the publisher thereof, upon account of the paper, and that the treasurer pay such draft.

Also, Resolved, That the secretary be directed to subscribe for the paper at the same rate, (81 per copy,) for any person or persons who shall be members of any organized association of mechanics, upon the attestation of his membership by the officers of such association, and the receipt of the sum of one dollar for each copy desired, free of expense, the publisher assenting hereto.

Mr. True then offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the publishing committee have the privilege of changing the *title* of the paper from the New York State Mechanic to the *Artisan and New York State Mechanic*, at the expiration of the present volume.

Mr. Baldwin called up his resolution offered yesterday.

Mr. Starr said he had experienced many of the evils of the state prison system. He could name individuals within his own personal knowledge who had been wholly ruined by the effects of this system. He thought, in order to effect the objects contemplated by the resolution, the mechanics should go back to their own ranks in order to eradicate the evils. He thought that the sympathy of the public was on the wrong side. Their philanthropy would lead them to inflict misery upon the laborer in order to ameliorate the condition of criminals. This sympathy was on the wrong side of the house.

But the repeal of this evil would not raise the mechanics to the elevation they so justly claim. Moral worth was the only standard to judge of man's elevation. The intelligence of mechanics will fix their station. The mechanics must first learn to respect themselves, and the world will soon learn to respect them. The paper, too, would furnish another great lever in accomplishing this object. This seemed to offer the most ready means, for no influence was so great as that of a well conducted press.

Mr. Whitney wished to strike at the root of the evil, and therefore was in favor of interrogating all candidates for office, for he believed that much evil resulted from the nonfulfilment of the laws enacted for the benefit of the mechanics. He thought that there had been a gross delinquency on the part of Gov. Marcy as well as Gov. Seward, in the discharge of their executive duties. He thought if they had discharged these fully at least part of the evils under which the mechanics had labored would have been avoided.

Mr. SWACKHAMER from the committee appointed to prepare an address and resolutions expressive of the sense of the convention, reported the following, which was adopted.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

We will not address ourselves to you as mechanics, but as members of the same common family; having one common interest, viz: the elevation of all classes of society, and the degradation of none. The enactment of laws, not for our special benefit, or for the aggrandisement of any particular class; but such as will protect and secure us in the enjoyment of our "inalienable rights; among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," leaving private enterprise free and unrestricted.

In a republic, where titles of nobility are not acknowledged by our constitution, it is to be deeply regretted that a privileged order of society should have grown up; fostered by legislation, while at the same time, and by the same means, the rights of the masses have been restricted, and their character reduced below that standard of equality to which they are justly entitled. There is no palliation, in our opinion, for this departure from the legitimate functions of government, which has imposed upon mechanics pecuniary burdens, not borne by others, and moral degradation that should not be endured by any.

Why is it that mechanics are thus singled out for oppression and wrong; their energy paralyzed, and their influence sought to be destroyed? Is it because they are unwilling to bear their part of the burdens of government? Is it because they are slow in the discharge of their duty, when the stability of our institutions are threatened? Is it because they are found in the rear ranks when foreign foes invade our soil? We answer, no. All history, all experience, responds no. Were the mechanic to discontinue his labors but for a short time, who could describe the poverty and suffering that must overwhelm all. Let him cease his vigilance, and the splendid fabric of our institutions, the pride of our land, must crumble to the earth. Let him refuse when his country calls, and the invading foe finds but little opposition; liberty is gone, oppression ensues, and this happy republic is no longer the pride and glory of freemen.

We hold that the merchant, the agriculturist, the mechanic and artisan, have a common interest in the well being of this republic. The law that deprives one of these classes of the enjoyment of their just rights, detracts from the character of all, and the enactment that degrades one injures all; for all are Americans, and as such suffer when the honor of their country is tarnished by the oppression of either. This being so, we appeal to our brethren of every political party, of every religious denomination, and of every vocation, to assist in restoring to us our violated rights.

Does it require any argument to prove that mechanics have had, and continue to have, great injustice done them through the operation of the prison system of labor in this state? No, we will not insult the understanding of an enlightened public in attempting to prove this. But for the purpose of bringing the subject home to the conscience of every man, we ask, *Merchant*, what would you think were the state to say, that all felons, no matter what their former occupation may have been, after they have served out their five or seven years in prison, they shall be turned upon you exclusively, with the enduring appellation of *merchant*, and ever after, while out of prison, to associate with your family, and whenever an opportunity occurs, like the adder, the enemy of our race, ready to sting the bosom of those you love. And again and again, when the same convict is brought up charged with crime, which is generally until the end of his days, would you be willing to have it go forth to the world, that your associate, John Doe, *merchant*, was found guilty of some heinous offence, and sentenced to state prison. *Lawyer*, we put the same question to you; *Doctor*, to you; *Farmer*, to you; and we ask you to answer according to that heaven-born maxim, that *as you would have others do unto you, do ye even so unto them.*

It may however be said that no one disputes that injustice is done mechanics by this system, and therefore the only question is how can it be remedied? Without entering into a discussion of the merits or demerits of an entire change, by substituting solitary confinement, and an abridgement of the term of service, we answer, not as has been falsely charged on us, by the entire abolition of prison labor, nor by imposing a direct tax, which as a part of community we would prefer to the odium cast upon us by the present system; but by employing the convicts in getting out rough stone, and ores, with which the state abounds.

Thus it will be seen that we ask for the imposition of no new burthens on any portion of our citizens; for conferring no privileges or favors upon us, nor for the enactment of any law which is not in consonance with the charter of our liberty and the rights of all men.

We only desire the disenthronement of of our fellows from bonds of oppression and injustice, and the elevation of their character to that standard of moral grandeur designed by the Author of the existence of all flesh. And the permanent establishment of their cause on such a foundation, that all the declamation of our opponents must prove, like the rolling surf against the immovable rock, and die within the sound of its own echo.

In this brief and unsophisticated manner, with the eternal principles of *truth* and *justice* for our guide, we appeal from the government to the legitimate source of all power, the *sovereign people*, in the fullest confidence that our righteous cause will receive the sanction of *Heaven*, and the support of all good men.

Whereas, The legislature of this state, at its last annual session passed an act relative to state prisons; which among other things provided for the appointment of a commissioner to examine into the practicability of employing convicts at mining in the northern mines of this state. And whereas, this convention is in possession of information which justifies the assertion, that the employment of state prison convicts as above indicated, is expedient and practicable; both as to the probability of adding increased resources to the revenue of the state, and the more effectual punishment of crime, by which a repetition of offence, of so common occurrence under the present system, from the mildness of punishment and the increased facilities afforded for mischief may be prevented: therefore,

Resolved, That this convention do respectfully, but most earnestly recommend to the next legislature, as soon as possible after convening next January, as an act of justice and good faith towards mechanics, to provide for the erection of a prison in the cheapest and most economical manner, for the purpose of carrying out the intentions of the act of 1842.

Resolved, That the present system of state prison labor is subversive of the natural rights of the mechanical and laboring portions of community, opposed to the principle of equal justice, and its tendency destructive of the morals of such as either directly or indirectly come within the sphere of its baneful influence.

Resolved, That we can find no justification for such a gross violation of our rights, by state authority, and that by all honorable means we will endeavor to secure to the mechanics of our country a full enjoyment of all the civil and political rights possessed by others: first, by the establishment of associations among our fellow mechanics and laborers in every county and town in the state; second, by diffusing among them a liberal and wide-spread intelligence, relating to their interests generally; and third, by circulating remonstrances, addresses, memorials, and

petitions, until, in the councils of the state, our voice is heard, our rights are secured, and our wrongs redressed.

C. SWACKHAMER,
BENJ. GREIG,
I. HUNTINGTON,
BENJ. H. BOYNTON,
ANDREW HANNA.

Mr. Swackhamer supported the address, which had been objected to. He maintained that the mechanics should support some definite plan. They should commit themselves. The government had asked them what they wanted. They should, therefore, recommend some definite plan. While they demanded a change, they should state some means for its adoption. It was asking too much to maintain that the present system should be entirely subverted. Such a plan he well knew would never succeed. The last bill was something. One step had been taken, but even this would not have been taken had too much been asked.

Mr. S. spoke at length on the law of last winter, and its effects, and said that should this be followed up as contemplated by the address, it would effect the desired object.

The convention then adjourned to 7½ o'clock P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

Minutes read, amended and approved.

Mr. Swackhamer asked unanimous consent to substitute in his report that "*the convicts be employed at getting out ores and stone in the rough*," instead of employing them at any branch of manufactures, as contemplated by it at first.

Mr. Starr enforced the policy of employing convicts in the mines, as a system of punishment better calculated to protect the public than the present system. He insisted that the market for iron could not for many years to come be supplied by the convicts, or even the entire number of iron workers, ten times their numbers doubled. He showed that the convicts could be so employed profitably. The weak and enfeebled could be employed at manufacturing silk, so that all could be employed, at those two occupations, without any interference with the mechanical employments of the state.

Mr. Pentz said that every species of manufacture was carried on in the prisons, from steamboat engines to milk pails. He said that the punishment was not heavy in our prisons. He detailed an instance in which a criminal stated that instead of being a punishment it was directly the contrary. He had undergone more punishment previous than he had since his conviction.

Mr. P. stated that engraving was also carried on there, probably to enable the convict to turn counterfeiter, after his graduation. Mr. P. spoke at length on this subject, and mentioned many facts of great importance, which may be detailed hereafter.

Mr. Simpson opposed the proposition stated in the address of the association. He did not think it proper that the convicts should be set up in competition with the iron manufactures of other states. The introduction of silk manufacturing in our prisons was wrong on the same ground. He did not think this just. He thought them mere *expedient* steps, and not a certain or safe remedy. He was in favor of solitary confinement, and the uncompromising opponent of all mere *expedient* steps.

He thought that our punishment of convicts was not as severe as it should be. The prisoners only *read* that the "*way of the transgressor is hard*," they did not *feel* it. Solitary confinement, in his opinion, was the *only safe* and proper decisive plan. No punishment was so much to be dreaded as that, and none would be so efficient for the prevention of crime. The object of law was prevention of crime, and the punishment that would produce that effect was the only proper one. He believed that the public would eventually adopt that mode. He hoped before introducing a new system that the mechanics would be careful and not introduce one which our children will have to rise up and repeal.

Mr. Huntington said the moment it was proposed to the public to substitute solitary imprisonment for the present system, it proposed to them to put their hands in their pockets and support it, and every one knew the effect of such an appeal. He did not think that we should propose a system—leave the legislature to do it. He did not believe any wrong would be done to a single mechanic in this state by the prosecution of silk manufactures in the prisons. He knew of no mechanic engaged in this business. The object of meeting was to devise some means to redress our heavy grievances, and he believed that the plan proposed was the only feasible one. He believed it would meet the approbation of the community at large.

Mr. True rose and said that it was objected, that we should not act upon this proposition. He said he had been informed that there was not a ton of New York iron used in the extensive foundries of the city of Albany, some of it being foreign, but mostly from other states. He thought that the rough iron might be produced by the convicts, and no complaint of injury would ever be heard, at least not for ages to come. He had the authority of men who knew, practical miners and founders, that the plan was feasible, and he believed it. The state owns several hundred thousand acres of land in the mineral regions, belonging to the literature and school funds, which if brought into market by the building of roads and settlement of that part of the state, would become available, to the assistance of the laborer, by increasing largely the means of education, a consideration of primary importance in elevating them as a class.

Mr. Starr said he cared not where the iron came from, but there was one fact, that $12,000,000 of iron was imported every year, and he did not think we were bound to legislate for foreign paupers.

The address was then adopted.

Mr. Starr offered a resolution in connection, which was adopted:

Resolved, That in the estimation of this body the present system of state prison discipline defeats the end designed, in that it has ceased to be punishment, or feared by the criminal, and that some method should be at once devised which shall tend to prevent crime and be a terror to evil doers.

Mr. Simpson proposed the resolution, which follows, which was adopted.

Resolved, That——delegates be appointed by this Association to the National Convention of Industry, which will be held in the city of New York, on 14th day of October next.

Mr. Pentz, Greig, Boynton, True, Simpson, Byington, and Steele of Buffalo, were appointed as delegates.

The association then went into an election of officers for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen were then duly elected as provided for by the constitution.

President,

ISRAEL HUNTINGTON, of Ontario.

Vice Presidents,

1st. O. G. Steele, of Buffalo.
2d. J. Waydell, of New York.
3d. A. Hanna, of Oneida.
4th. R. Christer, of Rensselaer.
5th. Benj. Greig, of Orleans.

Corresponding Secretary.

Joel Munsell, of Albany.

Recording Secretary.

A. Whitney, of Albany.

Executive Committee.

Wm. Whitney, of Albany.
A. Koonz, of "
A. Pierce, of "
Jas. Hageman, of Troy.
H. Crandall, of Utica.

Publishing Committee.

The Committee of last year were again unanimously elected.

Mr. Whitney's resolution, appointing a committee of four to interrogate candidates, was then called up, and the following gentlemen were appointed:

Joel Munsel, Wm. Whitney, E. B. Slason, Wm. Hawe.

The duty of this committee was defined to be as follows: That all candidates for state offices, be interrogated by this authorized committee, as to their opinions on the state prison labor question, and what their action will be thereon if elected to office. It was then

Resolved, That the answers of these candidates should be published in the Mechanics' paper, and in the county papers where such candidates should reside.

On motion of Mr. Pentz,

Resolved, That the thanks of this association be presented to Mr. Peck for the able and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of this body.

Unanimously adopted.

The Association adjourned without day.

INVENTIONS, DISCOVERIES, ETC.

NEW METHOD OF ENGRAVING.

At the late meeting in Manchester of the British Association, the following singular facts were communicated by Professor Bessel, said to have been discovered by Professor Moser, of Konigsburg:

"A black plate, either of horn or agate, &c., placed below a polished surface of silver, at a distance of one-twentieth of an inch, and remaining there for ten minutes, the latter receives an impression of figures, &c., engraved on the former, which may be rendered visible by exposing the silver plate to vapor, either of water or of mercury, &c. The image made by the camera obscura may be projected on any surface whatever (glass, silver, a smooth cover of a book, &c.) without any previous preparation; and these will produce effects of the same kind as those observed on a silver plate covered with iodine. Vapors of *different* substances are of *equal* effect, (without pretending that the effect will always be permanent.)

"The wonderful secret and silent operation takes place at midnight as well as at mid-day, in the dark as well as in light. There, on the silver surface, is the picture, to be called into sight by a breath. Can this be photography? The image is of the same character and is perfect as that of the early daguerrotype; but it is produced as well in the absence of light, and therefore Sir W. Hamilton suggested facetiously, as a distinction, that it be termed scotography. But Sir J. Herschel asked, might it not be thermography? He had obtained impressions at the heating end of the spectrum beyond the extreme red ray!"

NEW SALT MINE.

The Penn Yan Democrat of the 30th ult., contains a communication dated at Dundee, in that country, on the 25th ult., which states that very valuable salt springs have been found at the village, on and near what is called Big Stream, and on the lands of Mr. Smith Page.

In boring, when at the depth of about 10 feet, very strong brine was found; and at the depth of 75 feet, the brine is supposed to be as strong as any at the Onondaga salines. The present belief of Mr. Hulbert (who conducted the boring) is, that his bore discharges 60 gallons of brine per hour; and this brine, on being boiled in a common kettle, yielding at the rate of 2 lbs. salt for every 24 qts. of the water.

IMPROVEMENT IN SPLITTING-SAWS.

A correspondent of the American Mechanic states that a very great improvement may be made in the common hand splitting-saws, by commencing the teeth at the front of the saw rather small, and increasing the size of the teeth gradualliy as they approach the handle, at which end they may be nearly twice the size of common sized teeth. If saw manufacturers would consider and adopt this method, they would, no doubt, confer a great favor on carpenters, if on no other class of mechanics. That such saws must be better than the common kind, I think can be plainly seen. In the first place the common saw will cut twice as much on the half next the handle, and has no inclination to suck, catch, or twist, as it has near the point, and the same impetus given with teeth increasing in size, must do greater execution.

METALLIC LEGS.

D. Miguel Munoz has petitioned the Mexican government for the exclusive right of making metallic legs, of his invention, during the term of ten years. He represents them as far superior to any other kind of artificial legs hitherto invented. With one of these legs, he says, a man can walk, or even dance, without the aid of crutches.

BELGIAN MINERS.

From 1821 to 1840, 1,352 accidents occurred in the Belgian coal mines, which occasioned the death of 1,710 individuals, and injured 882, making a total of 2,592 persons killed and injured out of a population of about 28,000. The 1,710 workmen who were killed had wives and children depending upon them, and would have been wholly unprovided for, but for the assistance rendered to them by the provident institutions wisely and kindly established by the Belgian government. These grant pensions to the widows and children of deceased workmen, and afford relief in cases of serious accidents. In the years 1840 and 1841, the legislature voted 82,000 francs to the institution, the funds of which are further augmented by subscriptions from the various mining companies and a small percentage of the wages of the workmen. In case of any surplus in the funds, schools are established, which the children of miners are privileged to attend, and where they receive instruction gratis. These institutions are found to answer so well, that out of 38,502 miners now employed in Belgium, 31,407, or 82¼ per cent., are employed by companies in connection with the institutions.

The following is given as a fireman's toast:—"The ladies—The only *incendiaries* who kindle a *flame* which *water* will not extinguish.

THE ANNESLEY SYSTEM OF NAVAL ARCHITECTURE.

No. IV.

(Concluded.)

A plank built ship is constructed after the following manner—a kelson of proper size is first laid down; across it, at short intervals, and at each end, are placed moulds or arches made of pine boards, similar to the ribs, stern and sternport of a timber vessel. These form a temporary building frame, just like the frames used to turn brick work arches upon. The form and shape of these moulds are such as in each one to approach as nearly as may be to the form of a corresponding part of the frame of a ship of the given dimensions, with the angular points of such frame rounded off, so as to allow a thin plank to be bent round the mould in a curve from the top of it on the one side to the top on the other. These moulds being set up and secured, a course of plank is fitted upon and temporarily nailed to them, running lengthways of the vessel. Over this succeeds a course running round from gunwale to gunwale, well nailed to the first. Over this again a course lengthways, and then over this another crossways, and so on until the desired thickness is obtained. In light vessels sometimes only 4 courses are used, and then the intermediate courses are both run round the vessel. These courses are firmly united together by nails and spikes, the fastenings of each course passing through two or more of the courses below it, so that the whole is put together by fastenings which occur at every three inches square over the whole surface of the hull. Between the courses thick paper dipped in oil is interposed, or a coat of pitch, or of lime, to act as an antiseptic as well as to contribute to the tightness and firmness of the fabric. Each fore and aft course is thoroughly caulked with wedges of wood dipped in thick white lead paint, which forms an insoluble cement, uniting the faces of the wood in the firmest manner, so that this wedging, if thoroughly done, almost excludes the possibility of a leak. From all the longitudinal courses being wedged, there will be two or more entire and thorough caulkings, each sufficient to secure the vessel from leakage. The decks are next put in, either with beams and carlines, or which is the preferred method, by using two courses of pine, the first across the ship, being as it were a continuous line of beams, and the other along the ship and properly wedged. This forms a homogeneous deck, which has some advantages over the ordinary mode of construction. The moulds are then knocked out, and the vessel is complete as far as regards its security against the elements. It is an oval structure, composed of a set of arches supporting each other, with the fibres of the material crossing each other in every direction, as if dug out of an oak knot. It now requires those appendages which are to give its sailing qualities. Then are superadded—the stern, sternport, keel, and dead wood, are firmly bolted on, and proper fashion pieces are put on wherever required to give the vessel its proper figure as modeled, which entirely complete the vessel.

In making a comparison between the *old* and *new* systems, as they may be called, it would perhaps be no difficult task, by mathematical demonstration, to show the superiority of the *new* one, to those who are not convinced, "oculo currente," by the very description of their respective constructions. The dullest mind will understand the superior strength of a well made battened door over a frame one of twice its weight, and this is an illustration of the two systems.

Let us consider separately and in order the *qualities* of a vessel built on the new system, and consider whether there be not, in regard to them, in the aggregate, some superiority over those of a timber ship.

Strength.—In regard to stiffness to resist strains, both in the direction of its length, which produce hogging and settling, and in the direction of its breadth, which cause twisting, also to sustain pressure against the bottom and sides. I need only quote the result of the experiments detailed in the history of the steam boats S. De Witt and De Witt Clinton, to show how strong, to resist hogging and twisting, the system has proved itself, and the cases of the Telemachus and Annesley, to show its resistance of blows and pressure. It will be borne in mind that none of these vessels were much more than *one third of the thickness* of vessels of their class. Now, it is well known that the greatest caution is necessary, even with the strongest ships, when on the stocks, to keep every part of the body properly secured from partial pressures; also, that in the arrangements for launching the most jealous precautions are employed to ensure a safe delivery of the vessel into the water without any exposure to strains when moving on her cradle; and yet it is a well known fact that very many vessels never reach the water without being changed in figure. What would be thought of a proposal to expose 70–150ths of the strongest frigate in our navy, projecting into the air, as was done with the steamboat Simeon De Witt, but that it was sheer madness? What vessel of three times the weight of timber and plank would have lain as long on the Egg Harbor shoal as the Annesley did, and not gone to pieces?

Tightness.—Of this it is only to be said, that if two, three or four entire caulkings will not insure a vessel from leakage, no means can effect it.

Durability.—The new system evidently possesses great advantages in the ability it gives of affording inspection into the quality of the material used, since from the thinnest transverse plank of ¾ of an inch in thickness, to the thickest wale piece, there is scarce a chance for the beginnings of decay to be concealed from detection. Whilst, in the heavy timbers of a frame, it is often the case that the seeds of corruption lie hidden, to be ripened into active efficiency when it is too late to repair the evil, and thus, whilst some vessels have had the good fortune to escape rot for many years, it has occurred repeatedly that in less than five years many vessels have become utterly unseaworthy, from that cause. To this may be added that the interposition between the courses of plank of an *antiseptic*, like lime or pitch, must have a powerful effect in preventing rot, and in limiting the spread of it, if by chance it occur.

The durability of the caulking is a striking point of superiority, being made of seasoned wood cemented to the edges of the planks with white lead, it becomes one with the hull. In vessels having more than two longitudinal courses there will be one or more internal sets of wedges, which cannot be loosened except by the destruction of the vessel. The wedging of the outer and inner courses are alone exposed to decay, and of these it is sufficient to say that experience has not yet determined how long they will *not* last. The only evidence of its durability extant is in the steamboat De Witt Clinton, where it is now at 13 years of age in a sound condition, and it may be mentioned as a striking proof of the value of wedging that in that boat it has not cost *ten dollars* for repairs during the period mentioned.

Weight.—From the examples cited in this paper it is manifest that plank vessels of equal strength with timber ones may be considerably lighter. As yet the proportion of the one system to the other, to that end, is a matter undecided, but I give it as my opinion that as far as exposure to the dangers of the open sea is to be provided for, a plank ship never need exceed two fifths of the weight of a timber one, and judging from the behavior of the Telemachus and Annesley, that would also be a reasonable protection from the consequences of stranding, for in the case of the latter vessel it is probable that had her cargo been any thing but *coal* she might have been got off and saved. It is safe to say that any vessel properly constructed on the Annesley patent, of one half the weight of a timber ship, is safer for open sea risk, and as secure against wreck of any kind. An important consideration is the additional freightage affords ed by this comparative lightness. A plank ship of 500 tons would be able to carry at least 170 tons more of freight than a timber one, and would have 2500 cubic feet of storage more for bulky freight, in consequence of difference in thickness of the hull.

Cost.—Experience has shown that the cost of plank vessels, although built under very great disadvantages, as to time, place, materials and workmen, is much less than that of timber ones. It is my opinion that in a proper establishment for building, and with suitable conveniences, vessels of far greater strength and superior in every respect to those now built could be constructed for one fourth less money in outlay, and, with very few exceptions, of such durability as to cost nothing worth calculating for such repairs as would be called for by decay or weakness in a dozen years. There are other considerations which enter into the value of the system which may be adverted to. From the fact of the dead wood being put upon the vessel after the shell is completed, there never can occur those fatalities which frequently take place from the splitting of the stem, or starting of the stern frame, by a violent concussion of the sea, or collision with other vessels—also, from its homogeneous structure the ship can never be endangered by the springing of a butt, so often fatal to sea vessels.

Figure.—It is susceptible of adaptation to any figure required.

If the facts detailed in this communication are of any value, in estimating the worth of the Annesley system, and the conclusions drawn from them are in any reasonable degree correct, it is almost superfluous to close this article by commending this subject to all interested in nautical matters. It has never been fairly before the public for their judgment, for, although a large number of vessels have been built by the inventor during the last twenty years, it has been done, with few exceptions, in places remote from the observation of the commercial world. The only vessel which might have afforded an opportunity to exhibit the system fully, was the schooner built by the writer, which was unfortunately lost before he could carry out his intention of submitting it to the severest scrutiny and test of nautical men. It is to be hoped that the intelligence and enterprise of some of our large ship owners will induce them to give the system a full trial.

To *insurers* the subject is one of great interest. If the estimates of its security be in any degree correctly formed from the behavior of plank vessels, the risks of injury and loss are very greatly diminished in them. To the *shipping merchant* it gives, for the cost and repairs of a modern ship, a new hull every 12 or 15 years, with the old one in as good if not better condition than a timber hull of the same age. Considerations would multiply, and extend this paper to an unreasonable length, were all the arguments in favor of the system that present themselves to be now offered. I shall therefore conclude with the expression of my own confidence that sooner or later this system must be extensively employed in our marine. Sixteen years of experience have confirmed my faith, its philosophical principles having been fully borne out by its practical results.

R. V. D. W.

How many minds—almost all the great ones—were formed in secrecy and solitude, without knowing whether they should ever make a figure or not! All they knew was, that they liked what they were about, and gave their whole souls to it.

ALBANY, SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, 1842.

☞ DELINQUENTS.—Postmasters will forward money for subscribers free of postage. Subscribers should take advantage of the opportunity to forward money, as the terms of the paper require advance payments.

☞ The great length of the proceedings of the Convention, has crowded out our usual variety. At the same time we have given up a large space to our correspondents, whose articles have been in type several weeks. We shall resume the usual subjects again directly, which have been omitted to give place to more pressing calls upon our columns.

NEWS!

"The State Mechanics' Association was in session in Albany on Thursday."

The above is from the Rochester Democrat. We copy it as a curiosity, it being the first and only voluntary notice we have seen of that convention in any paper in the whole state of New York! The reason sent in from many counties for their not being represented in the convention, was, that they had seen no notice of the session, or that it had come too late. Let them reflect whether there ever was an instance before of a meeting of any sort, dignified with the name of a state convention, that the papers did not take it up, either in derision or earnestly to call the attention of the public to it; and if it was a political convention, that it was not a standing theme in every paper for months. But here was an effort made to call together the mechanics of the state for the noble purpose of deliberating upon measures for the intellectual, moral, social and political advancement of that large and important a class of community, which was considered so insignificant an affair by the press as not to be worth even a paragraph as a matter of news! We say it is an unparalleled case, and one which should not be lost upon mechanics, who are now of no earthly use but to vote at elections, and then only in desperate cases. The time will come, ultimately, when it will be different; our efforts are to hasten the period. They are seconded by a few dozen individuals, who are as a grain of mustard seed to the mass, and it will take seven centuries to leaven the whole with these few, at the rate we have been getting on. The mechanics understand what is wanting, but there are too many disposed to shirk the labor and responsibility, and leave it to others more willing and philanthropic. They will be content to sit down in insignificance and degradation till some one comes to lift them up.

AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

The second annual fair of the New York State Agricultural Society comes off, as we have before announced, on the 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th of the present month. The invitation extended to the mechanics to exhibit models has, we find, attracted considerable attention, and preparations are being made by a number, to our knowledge, to send in specimens of skill and ingenuity for public examination. We hope to see the time when there will be sufficient spirit and emulation among the mechanics in this quarter to get up an annual fair of their own for this purpose. It will be a pretty fair beginning if they can be induced this year to accept the opportunity offered by the agricultural society. Every mechanic who has constructed any thing curious or ingenious in his line, from a steam engine down to a jews harp, should bring it on.

COTTON MANUFACTURE.

It appears a little singular that the cotton manufacture should have so greately taken the precedence of silk, when the superiority of the latter is considered as an article of clothing, and the facilities which every farm house presents for producing the raw material in almost every latitude of the country. The almost incredible increace of the manufacture of cotton is not to be attributed to any peculiar laws, or prohibitions, or bounties, or other legislative protections whatever, but in a great measure to chance, and to the principle of free emulation and exertion; yet its increase during the last half century is one of the most interesting events in the history of commerce. It was not introduced into Great Britain till about two hundred years ago, and made very little progress during the first century; when the numerous mechanical inventions which followed in quick succession, urged forward its advance with inconceivable rapidity. About the year 1760, when Arkwright commenced the invention of his machinery, the amount of cotton goods manufactured was less than one million dollars annually, and the yearly import into England of raw cotton was but about one million pounds. In 1800, it had increased to fifty million pounds; and has now reached about three hundred and fifty million pounds, employing a capital of two hundred and fifty million dollars, and giving support to a million and a half of people. This rapid extension has resulted from the inventions of skilful mechanics; those of Arkwright in the spinning machine, of Cartwright in the power loom, of Whitney in the cotton gin, and the subsequent perfections of other mechanicians. Before these improvements were made, the world was principally supplied with articles of cotton manufacture from India, and it was impossible for European artizans to compete with the Hindoo spinners and weavers, whose muslins and calicoes were common in England and her colonies. But the low price of the manufacture, the result of machinery, now enables the European to send vast quantities of cotton fabrics to India, although the hand-spun yarns of the latter are more durable and capable of being converted into cloths more curiously fine than have hitherto been woven elsewhere.

The following table, derived from the report of Mr. Woodbury to Congress in 1833, gives the quantity of cotton manufactured at that time in various countries.

England,	284,500,000 lbs.
France,	87,000,000
United States,	85,000,000
India and China,	242,000,000
Mexico and South America,	35,000,000
Germany,	36,000,000
Turkey and Africa,	42,000,000
Spain,	10,000,000
Prussia,	20,000,000
Elsewhere,	40,000,000

STOVES.

There is no article of household economy of more general interest than stoves—involving as it does not only the comfort of the whole house, but of the shop and the office, the agreeable temperature of the parlor and sitting room, the heated hall, to break the chill and restore quick warmth upon the entrance from the cold world without to the home of friends within; the inducements to health by a proper warmth of atmosphere in the nursery, sick room and dormitory; the speed and convenience of the culinary operations of the kitchen; much of the pleasure of all public assemblies for devotion, diversion, public business, &c.; and much of the comfort, cleanliness, conveniences, safety and health of all offices, shops, stores, public houses and vessels, wherever heat is wanted; and the economy of fuel in all makes the knowledge of the laws of heat, the adaptation of stoves to the purposes intended, and the saving of fuel in their management, generally desirable. It is perhaps not too much to say that except in the article of clothing there is nothing in which the people generally are such miserable judges, and are so much humbugged as in stoves.

It has been a proverb that "people look the farthest for that which is nearest," and in the search for comforts in living they have verified it to the truth of another proverb, "far fetched and dear bought, the best." Simplicity and directness of purpose characterise every law of nature, as an investigation of them will show, and simplicity and directness is the best law to govern all the machinery of our operations; hence, all articles are best the more simple their construction, when they answer the ends for which they are made, every body acknowledges that.

The laws of heat in many respects are like those of light, that is, it radiates upon every side, it is absorbed readily by some bodies and reflected by others, depending mostly upon the nature or condition of their surfaces. A rough dark brown or nearly black surface absorbs caloric or heat, perhaps the readiest, whilst a white polished surface reflects it the best; so, too, is their capacity for the radiation of heat from their surfaces when the bodies are heated, the dark rough one giving it off the most freely; hence it is that cast iron is about the best dispenser of heat, so that nature has fitted the very article best adapted for making stoves with the best qualities for which they are wanted.

Of course the more heated surface there is exposed to the circulating atmosphere of the room, the more heat is given to the room, and hence the utility as well as beauty of carved and ornamented patterns of stoves, and that was one of the causes of the success of the celebrated Dr. Nott's coal stoves. He presented a greater amount of surface than had been previously done.

Heat being evolved by combustion it is the best economy that saves the greatest amount of heat to the purposes required, from a given quantity of fuel, and to make a stove to secure that result requires a consideration of the laws of combustion and radiation, a consideration which but few stove inventors take into account.

When heated to a particular degree wood and coal each become inflammable, and a supply of oxygen from the atmosphere continues the combustion so long as there is body enough of the wood or coal together to supply the required degree of heat at which

they burn, and here is an amount of knowledge required to determine the proper draught of air necessary to continue burning without wasting the fuel; for, if there is too much air admitted, much of the inflammable portion of the wood and some kinds of coal is disengaged, and carried out of the chimney, without benefitting any one except the fuel merchant, by increasing the demand, and the sweep, by foul chimneys.

When the great American philosopher made the first stoves, or iron fire places, bearing his name, he had reference to the law of radiation of heat mainly, and by bringing the fire place into the room, made the first approach to economizing in fuel, by getting heat from every side of the fire, but as the open Franklin left a free passage for the smoke and heated air about the fire to escape through the pipe, which was generally large, they still burned much more wood than was necessary to the heating of the same room by close stoves. So with the grates set in chimneys, for coal, at the present time, they require several times as much coal as will warm the room with stoves, besides the annoyance from dust, which, when heated, flies about the room, to the injury of furniture, and disturbing the equanimity of the neat housekeeper.

There is such a variety of patterns, every dealer having a particular improvement, and some of them dozens, that any writer runs the risk of bringing the whole community of patentees and improvers, and they are *legion*, upon him, should he dare to speak of any particular construction as best suited to economy in the above particulars.

In economizing fuel there should be only so much air admitted as shall continue its ignition to a required degree, and so much surface of stove or pipe exposed to the air of the room as will radiate all the heat that is evolved in the combustion, and the nearer the radiation takes place to the floor of the room the less will be required for heating the apartment. The "Air Tight" stoves, so called, are the best illustrations of these facts, they are the best economists of heat, but liable to objections, as are others that save fuel, and that is, there being little, comparatively no draught of air through them, the atmosphere of the room soon becomes impure, and requires ventilation, and there leaks out all the economy.

In their rage for "something different," a *new principle* to *patent*, the inventors(!) have taken the largest liberties with the laws governing heat, if not of propriety and common sense, hence we find some building their fires at the top of the stove, and forcing the smoke, gas, and heated air *down* through and about the under parts thereof, to bake, stew and boil beneath the fire, forgetting that the laws of gravity, making the rarified particles and gases tend upward, demand as much more heat in the pipe or chimney above the fire as shall increase the draught the amount required to force down the current of smoke, &c., below where it is generated, therefore losing in the draught without any thing to compensate it. There is also another loss by it, the ashes from the fuel is a good nonconductor of heat, and of course, falling upon the bottom of the fire place, prevents the heating down from the fire, as they suppose.

Others, again, build their fires alongside their ovens, sending their heated air and smoke, like partners in a contra dance, "down outside and up the middle," with an occasional "cross over;" and *patent* the passages under the expressive names of "diving flues," "revertible flues," "hot air chambers," etc., etc., all to be worked with "cut-offs," "regulators," "dampers," etc., to the end of the last specification.

I hold it to be sound doctrine that nothing is gained by forcing any agent against its natural laws. As in mechanics, by contrivances we may increase power but lose speed, and on the contrary, increase speed but lose power, so with heat, whatever is gained by forcing heated air, gas or smoke down, is lost by the increased draught required for that purpose; therefore, to economise heat in culinary operations, the fire should be at the bottom and the ascending heat pass about the operations above. If proper regard was had to such common sense rules, we should not hear so much about stoves that will not work in such or such a chimney, and others substituted that will work.

The burning of anthracite coal requires some other considerations than the above, although all the laws of heat and radiation apply to the coal burners as well as to those of wood. In the first place, coal requires a higher degree of heat to continue ignition than wood, and the coal will not burn where the cold air comes in contact with it, nor will it burn freely against any substance that conducts off or radiates the heat very fast; hence there should be just about the bed of coal a sufficient thickness of brick, soap stone, fire clay, or some other kind of lining, to prevent too quick a radiation just against the body of coal, but above should be exposed as much thin radiating substance as can be heated by the hot coal below, then is got all the heat evolved in its combustion. To burn coal freely there must not be too much depth to the body of coal, and that must be governed by the size of the coal, fine broken coal burning best at about three or four inches, coarse coal somewhat thicker, so that to increase the amount of heat the width and not the height of the pile is to be considered.

Again, heat is radiated from the surface in direct lines, so that the shape of the stove should be considered. A stove cone shaped, and standing upon its base, radiates the heat from the floor obliquely upward, reverse the position of the cone and the heat is radiated obliquely to the floor, where the warmth is wanted, and this fact is worth the attention of those who warm small rooms, shops, stores, &c.; the writer of this has been more comfortable, with a saving of nearly one half the fuel, in the same room, by a change of stoves of nearly the same sized grate.

Stoves with perpendicular sides have one advantage, and in large stoves, where height is required to radiate all the heat, they are perhaps the best, and that is, the ashes do not lodge upon the sides, and by their nonconducting qualities prevent radiation.

One prevalent notion with the public, that thick plates are the best for stoves, because they *hold the heat*, should be combatted; they are not so good, for the very reason so urged, they do *hold* the heat, when the object of a stove is to *give off the heat* as fast as possible; thick plates may wear longer when they come to the fire, but otherwise they are not so good. The thinner the material the better for radiating heat.

FRANKLIN.

A TARIFF DESTRUCTIVE TO INDIVIDUAL AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

"Liberty and the pursuit of happiness" are undeniably among the "inalienable rights of man," and when tempered with prudence and moderation, contribute materially towards meliorating the condition of the human family. But history admonishes us of the evils attendant upon the system of taxation levied in an indirect manner—the pages of the past are pregnant with the fruits of this pernicious policy, and exhibit to the vision of the investigator one of the main causes that has so largely contributed to depress and trample under foot the energies of the industrious poor, while at the same time it points out the road which may be safely pursued, and which leads to the summit of attainable happiness. No one will deny that the imposition of taxes amounting to prohibition, upon foreign commodities, tends to elevate the home manufacturer above those who are obliged by circumstances to labor in a subordinate capacity. Now, what is the result of that elevation? Why, in my estimation, it amounts to no more nor no less than the subversion of that individual independence for which so much blood has been shed, and for which no man who appreciates it according to its worth (and it cannot be too highly valued) would barter away to satisfy the cravings of lawless avarice, or to build up a government that would trample upon the dearest rights of man to carry out the views entertained by the aristocracy of this country—that there is an aristocracy in our country I presume no one doubts—and an aristocracy, too, based upon the precarious and ever changing genealogy of pounds shillings and pence. The question now arises, who are the aristocracy? is it that class made up of those whose wealth is proverbial, whose broad fields and rich domain has been handed down from father to son since almost time immemorial, or is it composed of those who have sprung up like mushrooms, between daylight and darkness, and whose high fortunes are founded upon the sweat of industry, the hopes of the widow, and the patrimony of the orphan, which of these two, I ask, compose the aristocracy of this country? I answer, the latter; and who are the latter but the manufacturing portion of the community? and who are the latter but those who are continually whining about protection, and constantly urging the mechanic to petition government to fasten an incubus about his neck that will eventually bear him to the ground, amid the taunting jeers of the manufacturing aristocracy. But I digress. What would be the result if a "tariff" should be procured, prohibiting foreign commodities from entering our ports; say, for instance, any articles manufactured in England, (for whose especial annoyance this "American system" was created,) employing a large number of operatives, and in which the United States is a pretty extensive dealer. Now suppose the citizens of the "States" should take it into their heads to manufacture the article themselves; now permit me to ask, what would become of the operatives thrown out of employment by the withdrawal of "American custom?" would they go to France, or to any other nation on the continent, and endeavor to get employment there? No! because there exists a total dissimilarity both in pursuit and language; nor would it be probable that France or any other nation would build establishments to manufacture an article for which they could find no sale abroad; then what would they do? would the government of Great Britain permit them to roam throughout that little island in quest of work, and infecting every portion of it with that spirit of insubordination and equality that have already been made manifest—would their loud, deep mutterings be allowed to contaminate the pure air of British loyalty for any length of time? and, lastly, could they themselves withstand the gentle moan of a loving wife, or the plaintive cry of a starving babe, without making an effort to extricate themselves from so perilous a situation—there is but one alternative, and that is, to starve or migrate to America; the latter, of course, is chosen, and if they do not possess the means, one of the secret arms of government (as facts will prove) is thrust forward to enable them to leave the home of their youth, the scene of their distress, misery and degradation. And what is the result? why, they are vomited upon our wharves almost as countless as the sands of the sea shore, they work for depreciated wages, they fill our workshops, they drive the native blacksmith from his anvil, they force the native carpenter from his bench, and boldly bid defiance to competition in point of sycophantic attachments; and the result is, the American mechanics are compelled to work for half the wages they formerly received, for the same manufacturer who a short time before was sympathizing with and groan-

ing out lamentations for the injured mechanic. Where now are all his protestations of sorrow? where now are all his windy declarations? they have been cast into the bottomless pit of self interest and personal aggrandizement. Don't understand me to say that all the manufacturers belong to this class, or partake of the same spirit; but rather, suppose I mean those who are so notoriously clamorous for a "high tariff," and who are the loudest in their denunciations of the principles of free trade. We very often hear the advocates of the "American system" urge as an argument in their favor that the protection of home manufactories tends to reduce the price of the article so manufactured. All this I am willing to admit, and what is more than that, I intend to show that the adoption of the free trade system has a still greater tendency to reduce the price of home manufactured commodities. Firstly, because of the cheapness of the raw material. Secondly, because of the improvements in machinery, and the consequent decreased demand of mere manual labor. Thirdly, because of the facilities afforded to all classes to embark in such and such employments as their tastes shall direct or their means warrant. Fourthly, because of the competition that would naturally exist where all was free and unrestricted. Now, with all these advantages, what is to deter the home manufacturer from entering into the field of competition with his foreign rival? "Why," they answer, "our countrymen will not labor for the same miserable pittance that the foreign operative is compelled by actual necessity to receive for his labor; consequently the price of the home article is increased just in proportion to the excess of wages paid for labor over the "foreign operative." This at first sight appears to be a very plausible argument in favor of the "protective system"—but it falls to the ground as soon as the advantages enumerated above shall be duly considered, coupled with the fact that the productions of our manufactories have repeatedly taken precedence of the foreign article, both at the foreign and domestic markets. Enough, I trust, has been said to prove that the American mechanic rather loses than gains by the imposition of taxes on foreign articles, for protection sake, for who does not know that the surface of our country needs but the practised eye of science to detect in almost every hill the germ of national greatness; all that is wanting is time and free action, and the American artisan, unaided by government strictures, will drive the foreign competition completely out of the market. But so long as government fosters the spirit of monopolies, and uses the power delegated to them by the whole people, to keep afloat the "long, low, black" bark of a particular class, so long will this government tread in the path of its unfortunate predecessors, and will eventually arrive at the same destination, viz: individual slavery and foreign subjugation.

W. D. W.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE.—There are various degrees of what is termed total abstinence, in reference to the use of intoxicating liquors and stimulants. It began to be applied to the disuse of strong distilled spirits, and now includes all vinous and fermented beverages—and many even discard tea and coffee, although it is believed that the pledges have not yet interfered with the *women's* cups. The first case of actual *total abstinence* from all drinks with which we are acquainted, was that of Julius Viator, a Roman, who lived to a very advanced age without drinking water, or using any kind of liquid nourishment. A similar example is presented in the case of Dr. Alcott of Dedham, Mass., who, it is said, has refrained from drinking during the present year, yet whose usual good health predominates. It is pretty well known that total abstinence from food is not quite so successful an experiment, yet we occasionally hear of a martyr to that branch of the science of human life.

PLANETARIUM.—A gentleman by the name of Russell has constructed a remarkable piece of mechanism, which he is exhibiting in Buffalo. It is a planetarium, or solar system, of great size, the orbit of Uranius describing a circle of 60 feet, and the weight of the whole instrument is said to be two tons! The movements of the planets are said to be very accurate, and are the result of much skill, labor and expense.

A GREEN HORN—the postmaster at Hall's Mills, or his assistant—perhaps both—*ecce signum!*

"Dear Sir—According to your request I return these papers to you which you will pay the postage on them which will be 26 cts to the post master at Albany George Benn, postmaster
By
George A. Benn, ASS"

"Post master at Albany will demand twenty six cents postage. It be the amantt of postage both ways."

Small game to be sure, but we're bound to expose ignorance when accompanied by other vices.

FRANKLIN'S FUND.—The fund bequeathed by Dr. Franklin to the city of Boston, to be loaned to young mechanics for the purpose of assisting them on starting business, now amounts to about twenty-five thousand dollars.

THE MILLENIUM.—We are not sufficiently skilled in this all-engrossing question, to fulminate an *ipsi dixit*. The millenium day has been so often foretold with confidence, and failed to come to pass, that mankind are becoming quite reckless of the consequences of so important an event. To those who are confident of surviving the 23d of April, we would recommend the following awful prediction, founded upon mathematical calculations, which of course are unerring. It will be seen that the catastrophe occurs at the distance of 4,000,000 years, which is a pretty liberal credit as to time.

A learned astronomer of Bremen, has made a calculation, which is enough to make one tremble for the dreadful fate of posterity! According to the calculations of this sage, after a lapse of 83,000 years, a comet will approach to the earth in the same proximity as the moon; after 4,000,000 years it will approach to o distance of 7,700 geographical miles; and then if its attraction equals that of the earth, the water of the ocean will be elevated 13,000 feet, and a *deluge will necessarily ensue!*

SYNOPSIS OF NEWS, ETC.

Grace Pomham, the last of the race of Pequot Indians, died at New London recently. She was 72 years of age—and appears to have been quite a respectable woman.

It is stated that the cod and mackerel fishermen thus far this season have been unusually successful.

Mr. Colman, of the Genesee Farmer, says the largest tree that ever came under his observation, is an oak in the meadow of Mr. Wadsworth, in Genesee, being full eight feet in diameter, standing out in its majesty as the cotemporary of other ages, and the mute historian of departed centuries.

The editor of the Hartford Courant was shown a pack of pins, made by Mr. H. Waters of Stafford in Connecticut, which appear of excellent finish and workmanship, and will not suffer with those of foreign manufacture. Mr. W's establishment is the third of the kind in operation in this country,—the machinery (of his own invention) displays great ingenuity, and performs some parts of the labor which has never been done in this country or Europe except by hand.

The following facts in connection with Yale College will not be read without interest: The total number of persons enrolled as members of the College is about 7000; the whole number of graduates 5,200, of whom 2,716 still survive, which is a large proportion, and argues that the scholar's life is favorable to longevity. The severel libraries number 50,000 volumes.

They have a mail from Rock Island, Ill. to Davenport Ind. which is carried in a *wheelbarrow*.

The Louisville Journal asserts that a large amount of the olive oil exported from France is made from American lard, and that the export of lard from this country to France is greater than to all the world besides.

An inquest was lately held in London, on the body of a lady, when it appeared from the evidence, the death of this victim of vanity was occasioned "through the long continued practice of tight lacing."

Hunt's Rolling Mill has been burnt down at Harrisburgh, Pa. Loss, $30,000.

For the first time in thirty years the port of Havana, was on the 30th ult., without a vessel.

It is believed that at the time of the passage of the tariff, there were over 200,000 persons out of work in the manufactories and workshops of New York and New England. A large proportion of these people will resume their labors in the course of this month.

In every direction we hear that the factories are preparing to employ extra hands. The Mattewan factory set 400 to work last Monday. A gentleman (Mr. Tech, late of the firm of Phelps, Dodge & Co.) left the city on Saturday, to put his factory in operation at Haverstraw, which employs over 200 persons. 20,000 persons, who were idle a month ago, are again at work. The prospect brightens—*N. Y. American.*

LEATHER, OIL, AND FINDING STORE,
No. 18 Hudson Street.
J. HOCHSTRASSER,

Will continue the above business at his old stand, and having made arrangements with manufacturers of Leather and Morocco in the cities of NEW-YORK, PHILADELPHIA, and ALBANY, and having in his employ first rate workmen, he is enabled to supply his customers with all the articles in his line on the most reasonable terms, at *Wholesale* or *Retail*, the following are included in his assortment: Oak and Hemlock Harness, Bridle, Collar, Horse, Trunk, Valise and Skirting Leather; Hog Skins, Philadelphia Russet Bridle, do. Facing Skins, do. Lining Hides, do. Top Hides, Patent Leather, Coach Roans, Neats Foot and Liver Oil, Currier's Tools, Oak Sole Leather, Hemlock do., WAX and Grain Upper Leather, do. Calf Skins, Keen's Philadelphia do., Seal and Kip Skins, Splits and Welt Leather, Cordovan, Red, Green, White and Yellow Linings, Goat and Sheep Binding Skins, White Alum Dressed Linings, Dressed and Undressed Morocco, Colored Goat and Sheep Skins, English Shoe Thread of all numbers, India Rubber and Patent Cloth, Apron Skins, Stock Binding, &c.

N. B. An assortment of SHOE MAKER'S FINDINGS will be kept on hand.

Also, *Roller Skins, Engine Hose, Band, Picker, String*, an *Patent Leather*, on hand and made to order. *Albany*, 1841.

To Builders and Contractors.

THE subscriber having purchased Caldwell and Cameron's Lock Establishment, is now prepared to execute orders on their improved plan, in all the variety of Door Locks now used in the best style of building. The utility of these locks will at once be apparent to any one who may examine them. The principal difficulties existing in almost every lock now in use, and so much complained of by builders and house owners, in almost entirely removed. The simple but substantial application of the spring greatly lessens friction, and consequently lessens and tendancy to wear. There is no liability in any of its movements, to get out of order, and any number of them may be applied with perfect ease and security to doors of various thickness, without the usual alterations, trouble and expense, that generally attend the putting on of locks, as is best known to the experienced builder. Their utility has been thoroughly tested by experienced men, for the last two years, with entire satisfaction, and are considered by all who have used them, equal and in many respects superior to any other kind of lock now in the American market.

All orders addressed to the subscriber, at the Furnace, Fonda-street, will receive prompt attention,
ROB'T L. CUNNINGHAM.

Schenectady, Nov. 26, 1841.

Reference may be had to any of the undersigned gentlemen who have given their approving card for publication.

We, the undersigned builders, have used Caldwell and Cameron's patent door locks, and from their simple construction, cheapness and general utility, do not hesitate to recommend them to the public, as equal to any lock of American manufacture now in use.

BOARDMAN & VAN VOAST,
GEORGE McBAIN,
HENRY MORSE, *Builders in Albany*
JOSEPH HORSFALL,
JOHN KELLY,
CORNELIUS THOMPSON,
ELIAS LYON, *Builders in Schenectady.*

I have during the past year, put on a number of Caldwell and Cameron's patent mortice and knob locks, and consider them the easiest to put on, and the best working lock I have ever used or seen. 37 JOHN RAYSIDE, Albany.

MISCELLANY.

[From the Amateur.]

SONG OF THE HENPECKED.

O her hair is dark as the midnight wave,
And her eye is like the kindling fire;
And her voice is sweet as the spirit's voice
That chords with the seraph's lyre,

But her nails are as sharp as a toasting fork,
And her arms as strong as a bear's:
She pulled my hair and she gouged my eye,
And she kicked me down the stairs.

I've got an eye that's made of glass,
And I've got me a wig that's new,—
The wig is frizzled in corkscrew curls,
And the eye is a clouded blue.

She may shake her knuckles full in my face,
And put the lamp to my beard,
And hold the broomstick over my head—
But I'm not a bit afeard—

For I've bound her over to keep the peace,
And I've bought me a crab tree cane—
The justice will come, and the constable too,
Is she meddles with me again.

My head was a week in the linen cap,
And my eye a month in the patch;
I never thought that the torch of love
Would light such a brimstone match!

[From the New England Review.]

THE REPLY.

Oh! his face is as red as the dog-day sun
In the misty sun-set sky;
And the tip of his nose is a burning coal,
You might light your candle by.

His eye was gouged by a two quart jug
That cracked across his nose:
And his other has taken a rainbow hue
From his pot-companion's blows.

He blundered against the red-hot grate,
And the grate returned the blow—
And the lamp that singed his grisly beard
Was the Lehigh coal below.

I've emtied his bottles of liquor, free
As the flow of Autumn rain,—
And the sheriff will come, and the jailor too,
If he fills them up again.

He has lost his scalp—he has lost his eye—
And his face is grim with blows—
And the early light of our love has changed
To the light of a tippler's nose.

HINTS TO MECHANICS AND WORKMEN.

If you would avoid the diseases your particular trades and work are liable to produce, attend to the following hints:—

Keep if possible, regular hours. Never suppose that you have done extra work, when you sit up till midnight, and do not rise till eight or nine in the morning.

Abstain from ardent spirit, cordials and malt liquors. Let your drink be, like that of Franklin, when he was a printer—pure water.

Never use tobacco in any form. By chewing, smoking or snuffing, you spend money which would help to clothe you, or would enable you, if single, to make a useful present to an aged mother or dependent sister; if married, to buy your wife a frock, or get books for your children. You also by any of these filthy practices, injure your health, bringing on headache, gnawing at the stomach, low spirits, trembling of the limbs, and, at times, sleeplessness.

Be particular in preserving your skin clean, by regular washing of your hands and face, and mouth, before each meal, and of your whole body at least once a week; and by combiing and brushing the hair daily.

Always have fresh air in the room in which you work, but so that you shall not be in a draft.

Take a short time in the morning, if possible, and always in the evening, or towards sundown, by standing erect, and exercising your chest and limbs by a walk where the air is the purest.

If confined in doors let your food consist in large proportion, of milk and bread, and well boiled vegetables. Meat and fish ought to be used sparingly, and only at dinner. You are better without coffee, tea, or chocolate. If you use any of them, it ought not to be more than once a day.—*Journal of Health.*

FEMALE DRESS IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

The dress of females of rank was restrained by limitations of a nature somewhat similar to those which restricted the absurdities of male attire, and was less extravagant. The gown, composed of silk or velvet, was shortened or lengthened according to the rank of the wearer. The countess was obliged, by the rules of etiquette, to have a train both behind and before, which she hung upon her arm, or fastened upon her girdle; the baroness, and all under her degree, were prohibited from assuming the badge of distinction. The matron was distinguished from the unmarried woman by the different mode of their head attire; the hood of the former had recently been superseded by a coif or close bonnet, of which the pictures of Holbein give a representation; while the youthful and the single, with characteristic simplicity, wore her hair braided with knots of ribbon. The materials of the dress were costly; and were sometimes enriched by embroidery, and by the addition of precious stones. Such were the demand for cloths of gold and silver, for velvet and damasks, that three or four thousand pieces were in one year imported from Italy; this number in those times was immense, when persons of inferior rank were obliged to adhere to a simple and serviceable garment made of woollen or hempen cloth, somewhat resembling the Saxon tunic, and from this gown, the frock of the wagoner, still in use, is supposed to have been derived.

RISKS OF MERCANTILE LIFE.

Gen. Dearborn, in a lecture delivered last winter, before the farmers of Massachusetts Legislature, declared, that 97 out of every 100 persons who obtained their livelihood by buying and selling, failed or died insolvant. This fact he ascertained by reference to the books of the custom house, the banks, probate office, and from the recollections of the oldest merchants. If this statement approximates to the truth in relation to the risk of mercantile life, it should induce fathers who place their sons upon a farm to instil into their minds a love of agricultural pursuits. Gen. Dearborn declared that "he would prefer a cottage in the country with five acres of ground, to the most splendid palace that could be erected in the city, if he must depend upon the success of merchandise to support it."

BUYING AND SELLING.

Without agriculture and manufactures flourish in a country, it is impossible to attain an advantageous commerce. The excellent maxim of Cato should never be lost sight of, that "a master of a family should be a *seller* not a *buyer*." All the comforts of a family, all the wealth of a city, and all the grandeur and power of a state, depend on *selling much and buying little*, or selling more than is bought.

SCAMPERING.

A late traveller *by steam* through France to Marseilles to Naples, calling at Genoa, Leghorn, and Civita Vecchia, has published in London a narrative of his travels graphically entitled "*A scamper through Italy and the Tyrol.*" With steam-like rapidity, he says, "Vesuvius was ascended, and other environs of Naples visited, and then hey for Rome;" whence, after a residence of four days, to Florence, next, after a sojourn of two days, to Venice, by Bologua, Ferrara. and Padua, the two last being seen while the vetturino halted. To Venice three days were given; and then our author returned home through the Tyrol, part of Switzerland, and Belgium, walking, riding, or using railroads, as opportunity occurred. The time occupied in this tour of 3,500 miles was fifty-two days; the sum expended on conveyances £22 3s 6d, and the total outlay £39 3s 6d. The luggage of the traveler was conveyed in a "leather knapsack, about 14 inches square."

SPURZHEIM'S CHOICE.

It is said that the late Dr. Spurzheim in selecting a companion for life, made choice of a lady who had passed through uncommon scenes of calamity. He considered great mental suffering necessary to the formation of human character and to the developement of the highest and purest qualities of the soul. There is philosophy in the idea, as well as a prudent calculation.

THE OLDEN TIMES OF ENGLAND.

The records of the corporation of Canterbury publish the expense paid for bringing a heretic from London in 1535 at 14s. 8d; and for a load and a half of wood to burn him, 2s.; for gunpowder, 1d.; and a stake and staple, 8d. This is one of the records of the "*good* old times."

THE TAILOR RIGHTED.

Some one ingeniously proves that a tailor, instead of being the ninth part a man, possesses the qualities of nine men combined, as follows:

1. As an economist—he cuts his garments according to the cloth.
2. As a gardener—he is careful of his cabbage.
3. As a cook—he provides himself with a hot goose.
4. As a sheriff's officer—he does much at sponging.
5. As an executioner—he furnishes a great many gallowses.
6. As a gentleman—he brandishes not a sword, but a bare bodkin.
7. As a sailor—he shears off, when he thinks it necessary.
8. As a lawyer—he attends to many suits.
9. As a christian and divine—it is his chief aim to form good habits for himself and others.

AS GOOD AS IF IT WERE ÆSOP.

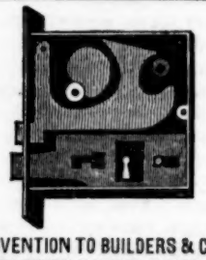
The Nantucket Islander says the following story was lately told by a reformed inebriate, as an apology for much of the folly of drunkards:—"A mouse ranging about a brewery, happening to fall into one of the vats of beer, was in immediate danger of drowning, and appealed to a cat to help him out. The cat replied, it is a foolish request, for as soon as I get you out I shall eat you. The mouse piteously replied, that the fate would be better than to be drowned in beer. The cat lifted him out, but the fumes of beer caused puss to sneeze; the mouse took refuge in his hole. The cat called upon the mouse to come out: You rascal, did you not promise that I should eat you?" "Ah!" replied the mouse, "but you know *I was in liquor at the time!*"

NAMES MISPLACED.

Mr. F. *Grog*, is a candidate for tax-collector in Beaufort District, South Carolina. Mr. Henry *Grogrum* is President of a temperance society in Virginia. Stephen *Rum-bold* is the Treasurer of another tee-total association in Maryland.—*Philadelphia Expres.*

DR. JOHNSON.

When Dr. Johnson courted Miss Porter, whom he married, he told her that he was of mean extraction, that he had no money, and that an uncle of his had been hanged! The lady by way of reducing herself to an equality with him replied that she had no more money than himself, and though none of her relations had been hanged, she had fifty who deserved hanging!



IMPORTANT INVENTION TO BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS.

WILSON'S PATENT LEVER LOCK AND LATCH, WITHOUT SPRINGS.—The subscriber, agent for the sale of the above Locks, having permanently located in this city, is now prepared to supply all orders with despatch. The above Lock is a new and important invention, possessing many advantages over every other kind of Lock which has ever been in use. It is made without springs of any kind and is not liable to get out of order. The principle being that of the weighted lever it acts with great regularity and little friction.

We are also prepared to furnish an ALARM LOCK, constructed on the same principle, with the addition of a guard or alarm bolt, which, when set, closes up the key hole of the lock, and may be at pleasure attached to a bell or any other means of alarm, either within or without the building, and will immediately set the alarm in motion when any attempt is made to force the lock or pick it open, the door still remaining securely fastened.

Orders addressed to the subscriber, at his office, 67 State street (up stairs,) will receive immediate attention.

S. F. BENNETT.

Albany, August 17, 1842.

NEW YORK STATE MECHANIC

A weekly paper, devoted to the interests of Mechanics and Manufacturers,

IS PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY,

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No. 58 State Street, Albany,

At $1.50 per annum in advance.